

IMPORTANT FROM KANSAS

WAR REOPENED IN BOURBON COUNTY.
FORT SCOTT TAKEN BY MONTGOMERY.
EX-MARSHAL LYTLE KILLED.
MISSOURIANS PREPARING TO INVADE KANSAS.
OLD "BROWN" INVADES MISSOURI.
FORCIBLE LIBERATION OF SLAVES.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

BARNESVILLE, Dec. 17, 1858.

I have already several times noticed the imprisonment of a young man named Benjamin Rice at Fort Scott, on a charge of having participated in the difficulties of Southern Kansas last Winter. He was arrested by Capt. John Hamilton on the 16th of last month. He was then arrested on a charge of larceny, of which charge all knew him to be innocent. Rice knew at the time of his arrest that an indictment had been found against him by the late packed Grand Jury of Bourbon County for killing a Pro-Slavery man named Wasson, in a fight between two small parties of Free-State and Pro-Slavery men during the war of last Winter, and suspected that the other charge was trumped up for the purpose of enticing him into the Fort by the prospect of an easy acquittal, whence he might be taken and held on the old charge. He told Deputy-Sheriff Hamilton what his suspicions were, and declared that he would not be arrested on any charge of offenses committed, or claimed to have been committed, prior to the compromise made by Gov. Denver. The Sheriff and posse—some eight or ten in number—solemnly assured Rice that no treachery was meditated, and that if he surrendered himself he should not be held or tried on any other charge than the one named in the warrant. On these assurances being given, Rice surrendered. He had hardly done so, however, before the posse taunted him with his greenness, saying how easily he was tricked. They at once told him that he was to be hung, and some drew their revolvers upon him, threatening to shoot him down at once, and would have done so, in all probability, had not others prevented it. When they reached Fort Scott, he was told that he would never go out again, and a warrant, issued under the old indictment already spoken of, was served upon him. A general justification was held over this breach of the compromise, in which Marshal Campbell, Judge Williams, J. E. Jones, editor of *The Fort Scott Democrat*, the Lytles, ex-Gov. Ransom, and others, participated.

Soon after this, meetings of the people were held at Mapleton and Osmo City, called by the Pro-Slavery men themselves. At one of these the people demanded that Rice should be unchained and released on parole. At the other, the Denver compromise was readopted, and the full release of Rice demanded, the offense alleged against him being one of the *hy-gones*. The Fort Scott people bolted these decisions, and held a meeting of their own, at home, composed exclusively of Pro-Slavery men, at which it was declared he should not be released, and that he should be killed if any attempts were made to rescue him. J. E. Jones, editor of *The Democrat*, declared in a speech on the occasion, that "he would open before his release," and the Fort Scott people applauded the sentiment.

All the men of the town were placed on duty, and a strong guard continually kept about the place. They boasted of being able to defend the town and hold the prisoner against 500 men. Montgomery had already proposed to the Free-State men of the Little Osage to take the place by force of arms, and rescue Rice; but a few of the more conservative men prevailed upon him to desist for a time, and until they could try all peaceful means at hand. All these peaceful negotiations proved to be of no effect. They resulted in nothing but the closer confinement of Rice.

The excitement of the people continued to increase, and their clamor became louder for the release of the prisoner. Day before yesterday Montgomery took up his march for the Fort, with 70 men, gathered from the Little Sugar and Little Osage. Fort Scott is built on the south bank of the Marmaton, which is fordable at two points opposite the town, but at no other for two miles above. The river had risen several feet within a few days, by the rapid melting of the heavy snow which had lain upon the ground for upward of a week, and so as to make it impassable at the town. The people of the town thought themselves sufficiently guarded by the flood, on account of which they have been unable to learn of the approach of Montgomery. The Free-State forces reached the Marmaton one mile above the only fordable point, the California Crossing, and three miles from the Fort, about 10 o'clock on Wednesday night. Here they encamped, and rested until 4 o'clock the following morning, when they again took up their line of march for the Fort. They crossed at the California Crossing, and advanced upon the town from the south. Montgomery ordered a halt about a quarter of a mile from the Fort, where the men all dismounted. Ten men were drafted for a guard for the horses and the 12-pound howitzer. The other sixty, in three divisions, entered the town without resistance—even without awakening the inhabitants. The first division charged upon the Fort Scott Hotel, in which the prisoner was kept. The kicking down of the doors between them and him was the first notice which the citizens had of Montgomery's presence. The door of the cell, which was in the third story, was a heavy one, and locked with a large lock. An ax was procured, and the door cut into pieces. The prisoner, with cries of joy, seized the ax, and cut the heavy iron staple by which his chain was fastened to the floor. Then grasping the long, heavy log-chain, still fast to his foot at one end, with one hand, and a proffered revolver with the other, he leaped forth a free man, and joined his rejoicing rescuers below. The place, the danger, everything was forgotten; each one hastened to greet him and shake him by the hand.

About this time two shots were fired from Lytle's store, which adjoined the Hotel—one of them wounding Benj. Semans, the other just touching Mr. Haskett, neither being seriously injured. A guard was immediately thrown around the store to prevent the escape of any one who might be in it, and the howitzer was sent for. Semans had promptly returned the shot fired at him, but without effect. Both the shots from the building had been fired by John Lytle. This man acted as an officer under Clark in his Missouri invasion in '56. He was also the Deputy-Marshal who, at times, with posse composed of such men as Brackett, Hamilton and

Hardwick, and again with Capt. Anderson's Company of Dragoons, made up mostly of Buford's men, so harassed the people of the Little Osage Valley last year. His notorious attack upon Fort Bain, where some fifteen or twenty of the Free-State people had assembled for mutual defense, and his disastrous retreat therefrom occurred just one year ago yesterday. His father was Blake Lytle, a member of the Lecompton Constitutional Convention.

He twice afterward attempted to fire upon the guard and the building, but he was both times fired at by the guard before he was able to shoot. The cannon, on arriving, was loaded and brought to bear diagonally upon the building. The old man Lytle, and a man named Crawford, then surrendered, when it was found that the last shot fired at young Lytle had proved fatal, having struck him in the center of the forehead, and passed directly through his head to the base of his brain.

It had been agreed upon by the Pro-Slavery men of Fort Scott, that in case the Free-State men should be able to enter the town unopposed to them, and take it by surprise, they should all bar their doors and open a fire from their houses. Lytle's store had been used as a guard-house, and Lytle supposed his shot would be followed by a volley from the other houses. But his comrades seemed to forget this, as but one other shot was fired: that was by a clerk in Wilson's store, and slightly wounded Mr. Kent. Montgomery had given orders that any building from which shots were fired should be burned, battered by the cannon, or sacked. This order was made known to ex-Gov. Ransom, Judge Wilson, and other leading men, who had been made prisoners on the first entrance into the town. They were afterward released on parole. The circulation of the nature of this order, in this way, probably prevented much bloodshed. All resistance ceased, and the Free-State men had entire possession of the town. Wilson made haste to apologize for himself, and disprove of the firing from his store, and Montgomery countermanded the orders in relation to its destruction. Lytle's store was, however, completely plundered of all the arms, clothing, provisions, and munitions of war it contained. No other property was taken from the place. This would not have taken place if no fire had been opened from the store of the Free-State men. The place was taken at day-break, and was evacuated at noon, and the Free-State forces left for the north.

This matter will hardly rest here. The Slave power has been humbled, defeated in one of their favorite schemes for the persecution of the people. Both the Territorial and Federal Governments will naturally seek revenge. The sympathy of Missourians will also be enlisted. A late number of *The Lecompton National Democrat*, in a long and malicious article on the subject of the Southern Kansas troubles, hints that an edict of outlawry against Montgomery, Brown, and others, will be resorted to. Indeed, I should not be surprised to see the troops which have been sent to Fort Smith and Washita ordered back, and a reward offered for the heads of Montgomery and others. Such a course as this would open a war that would last for years, and not unlikely cause a dissolution of the Confederacy. Yet Gov. Medary, who has probably arrived by this time, will undoubtedly be greatly under the influence of Sec. Walsh, whose opinions were doubtless set forth in the article alluded to in his organ, *The National Democrat*, and I can scarcely look for anything short of such a suicidal policy on the part of the Government.

MOKEKA, Kansas, Dec. 22, 1858.

Immediately after the taking of Fort Scott and the rescue of Rice by Montgomery and the Free-State forces, Marshal Campbell and Sheriff Ball left the Fort for Lecompton, for the purpose of securing the aid of Federal troops. What result they have had is not yet learned, as the high waters have prevented their early return. Other messengers were sent to the Cherokee Nation to procure the assistance of the Indians. A leading citizen of Missouri was in the Fort on the following day, probably having been sent for counsel. He promised unlimited aid from the State. He stated that a company of 80 men was already formed in Greenville, De Kalb County, for the purpose of again invading the Territory to kill Montgomery. He was accompanied on his return home by some of the Free-State men. Meetings have since been held all along the border, which denounced the rescue of Rice, and promising aid and sympathy to the Pro-Slavery men and officials in the Territory. This movement was at first confined to the more southern of the border counties of Missouri; but I have just learned that great efforts are being made at Lexington, Independence, Kansas City, and Westport, to raise forces for the same purpose. Some 800 men were to be raised in the south alone.

Many of the more timid of the Free-State men are leaving the Territory. Others go to the central and northern parts, where no difficulties are apprehended, to remain until peace is established. All have begun to believe that a long war is being opened. The Pro-Slavery men in the Territory also took the same panic, many of them leaving for fear of being punished by the Free-State men for the crimes of other Pro-Slavery men, and others to prevent being mistaken and killed for Free-State men by the Missourians, when they should make their invasion for the latter threaten to kill every man and burn every house in the Valley of the Little Osage. They boast that Hamilton and his gang, the perpetrators of the Marais du Cygne murder, are yet on the border, awaiting an opportunity for repeating his massacre. The Pro-Slavery officials of Fort Scott even declared, before the release of Rice, that Hamilton would be called in unless the people would submit to the persecutions which had been recommended.

To give confidence to the people of the Territory, and to prevent further flight, and to teach Missourians the necessity of remaining at home, Brown determined upon an invasion of Missouri. Night before last he carried out his purpose by entering the State with two companies, one on the north side of the Little Osage and the other on the south side. They visited all the slaveholders they could reach in one night, especially those who had interested themselves in Kansas affairs, took them prisoners, and set their slaves at liberty. A large number of horses were also taken. Arms, ammunition, provisions, &c., to a considerable extent, were taken. The slaveholders were deprived of everything of value that could be carried away, except such as were of immediate necessity to their families. Their wagons were filled with their slaves and goods, their horses and oxen hitched to them, and driven away.

When the Free-State men had surrounded a house, the inmates were ordered to surrender, and then asked whether they would do so or fight. But two chose the latter. One of them afterward reconsidered the matter, and, on seeing the number of the Free-State men, surrendered. Another

resisted, and was killed. Most of the slaveholders were released when the parties left. Some of them were conveyed as prisoners across the State line to Barnevillie. They were then liberated and told that they might raise a force and follow as soon as they liked. The slaves taken amounted to some ten or fifteen in number.

Where non-slaveholders were found at the houses of Pro-Slavery men, they were told to point out the property belonging to them. This was left untouched. Some property of this kind was in one case taken through mistake, but was afterward taken back and returned to the owner.

The facts which I have stated I have obtained from the most trustworthy sources, and are such as are agreed to by both parties—the invaders and the slaveholders—and may be relied upon as true in every particular.

Correspondence of The Missouri Democrat.

OSAWATOMIE, Dec. 27, 1858.

Hardly had the public mind cooled down from the fever heat, into which it was thrown by the Fort Scott tragedy, before it was wrought up to a frenzied condition by the enactment of new scenes in the present exciting drama.

THE BEGINNING OF RECENT TROUBLES.
 The murder at Chonten's Trading Post last May, and the subsequent killing of Mr. Pope, and the serious wounding of another citizen near Pappsville, all of which were done with the most inhuman and barbarous means, and upon citizens widely and favorably known for their peaceful and law-abiding lives, belonging to the Lawrence estate and the service of a Mr. Hickman, had crossed over to Barnesville, Bourbon County, Kansas, under the pretext of selling horses, but really to arrange for the flight of himself and companions. On Monday night, the 23rd inst., a company of about 20 or 25 men, their appearance being that of the Lawrence estate and the service of a Mr. Hickman, had crossed over to Barnesville, Bourbon County, Kansas, under the pretext of selling horses, but really to arrange for the flight of himself and companions. 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